

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Application
Reflective Essay Instructions

Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants are both considered occupational therapy practitioners. Occupational therapy practitioners are responsible for communicating well both orally and in writing. Being healthcare professionals they also, use reasoning skills, insight and judgment when making clinical decisions and when relating to clients and other professional team members. Therefore, to determine whether an applicant to the occupational therapy assistant program at Lackawanna College will be a good match for the profession and program, applicants must submit 2 original essays regarding 2 of the themes listed below.

Your essays will be evaluated in the following areas:

1. Understanding of topic chosen and support for main points
2. Relevance to the field of occupational therapy or the profession of occupational therapy assistant
3. Organization of thought
4. Mechanics of writing

Essays must be completed by the applicant only and must be original.

Instructions:

1. Begin each essay with a statement such as: I, *applicant's full name*, testify this essay is original and has been written by me.
2. Add your signature and date following your statement of originality.
3. Choose 2 topics below.
4. For each topic write an essay (word-processed, typewritten) that is 2-3 pages in length double-spaced, using Times New Roman font, size 12 point. Essays may have a title page but it will not be included as one of the 2-3 pages.
5. Include the essays with your other application materials.

Topics:

1. The American Occupational Therapy Association has established a mission which encourages occupational therapy practitioners to provide services that are more "occupation-based." What does this mean and how could the occupational therapy practitioners you have observed become more occupation-based in their practice?
2. Most healthcare professionals report "wanting to help people" or "liking science" as primary reasons for entering a healthcare field. However, not all healthcare professionals do the same jobs. For example, medical technologists might really enjoy searching body fluids for evidence of disease and certified nurse aides might really enjoy assisting patient's with their basic needs during a hospital stay. What characteristics and/or preferences do you have that contributed to your decision to pursue becoming an occupational therapy practitioner? How are occupational therapy practitioners different from other healthcare professionals? Why do you think this field is a good fit for you?
3. Perhaps you or someone you know received occupational therapy services. How would you rate those services? Why? What could have made those services better?
4. Many people in the public believe they know what occupational therapy is and all that it entails. They are very often incorrect. If you were giving a talk about occupational therapy to a group of 5th graders what would you tell them?